



BATMAN:
DARK PATTERNS
13+
TEEN 10

BATMAN

DARK PATTERNS



HS
25

WATTERS
SHERMAN
FARRELL

THE CHILD OF FIRE PART ONE

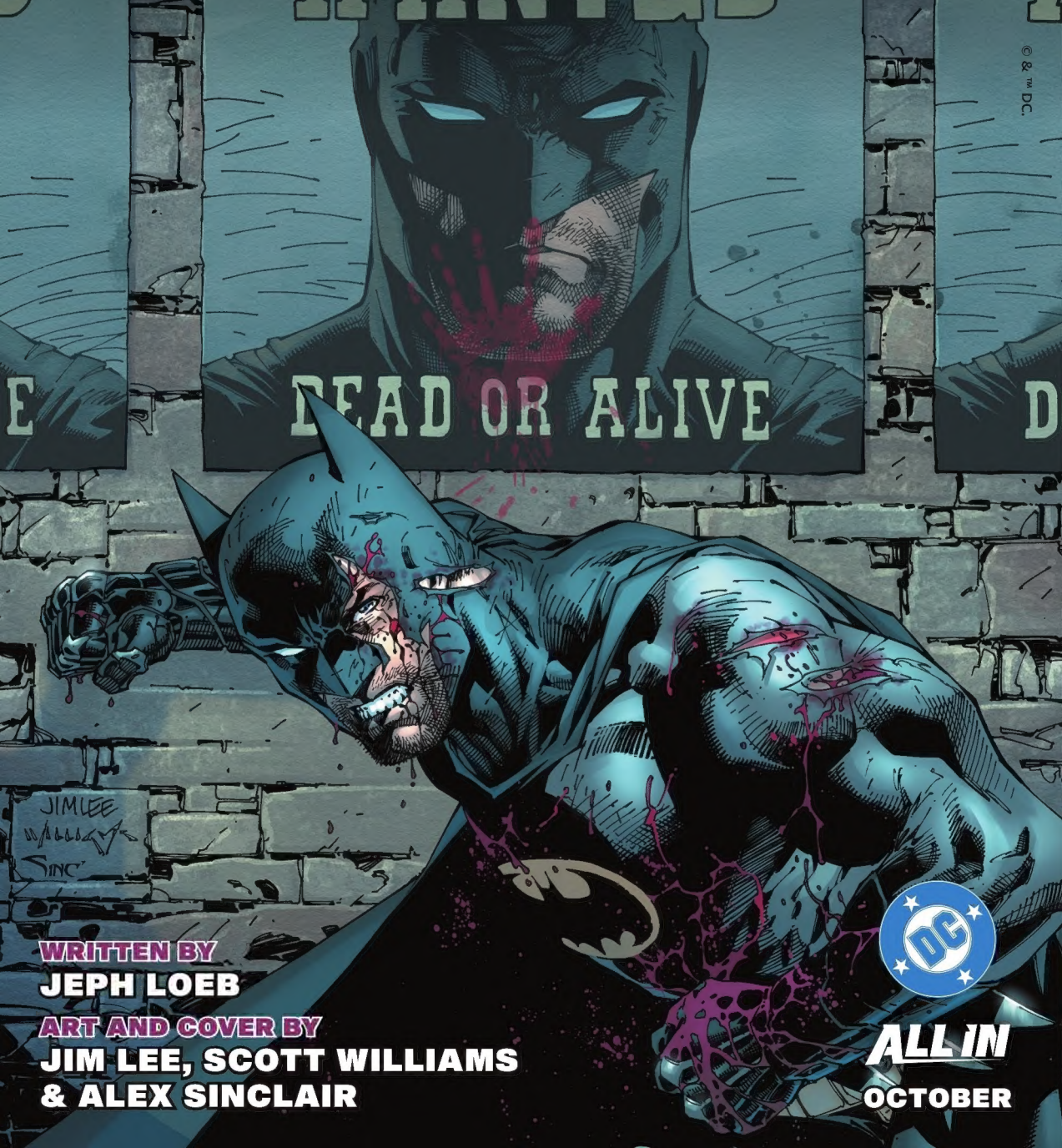
BATMAN VS. THE BAT-FAMILY!

BATMAN

HUSH

#162

CHAPTER FIVE



**WRITTEN BY
JEPH LOEB**

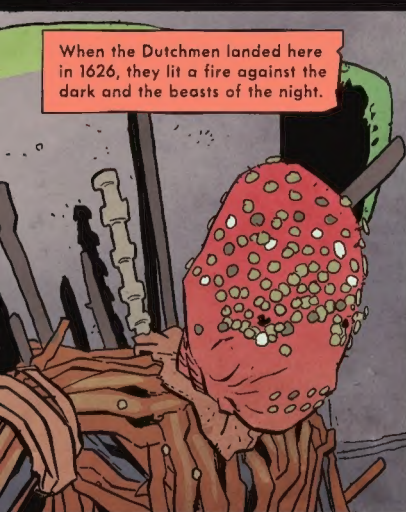
**ART AND COVER BY
JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS
& ALEX SINCLAIR**



**ALL IN
OCTOBER**



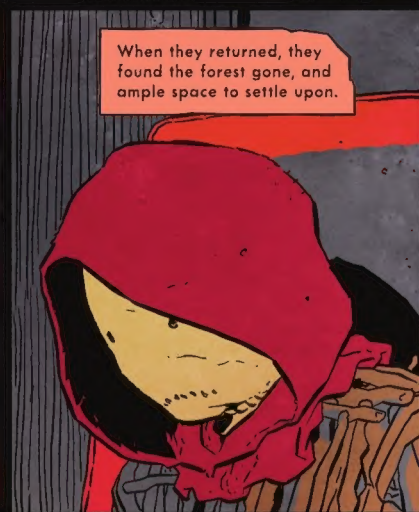
The city of Gotham was born in flame.



When the Dutchmen landed here in 1626, they lit a fire against the dark and the beasts of the night.



But the dry brush of the forest caught alight, burning ferociously and forcing them to flee.



When they returned, they found the forest gone, and ample space to settle upon.



The potassium- and calcium-rich ash made the ground fertile for their crops, and Gotham prospered.



It is foolish, then,
to live in Gotham
and fear fire.

I see now how it is not
a tool, but the *source*
of all creation.

It is us, and
we are it.

And so, when we have
lost our way, we must
return to it.



It will lead us like a *child*, by the hand, to a better tomorrow.



THEY KEEP LIGHTING IT, BUT HE'S CLEARLY GONE.

AND A GOOD THING, TOO.

LAST THING THIS CITY NEEDS IS ANOTHER...
uh...

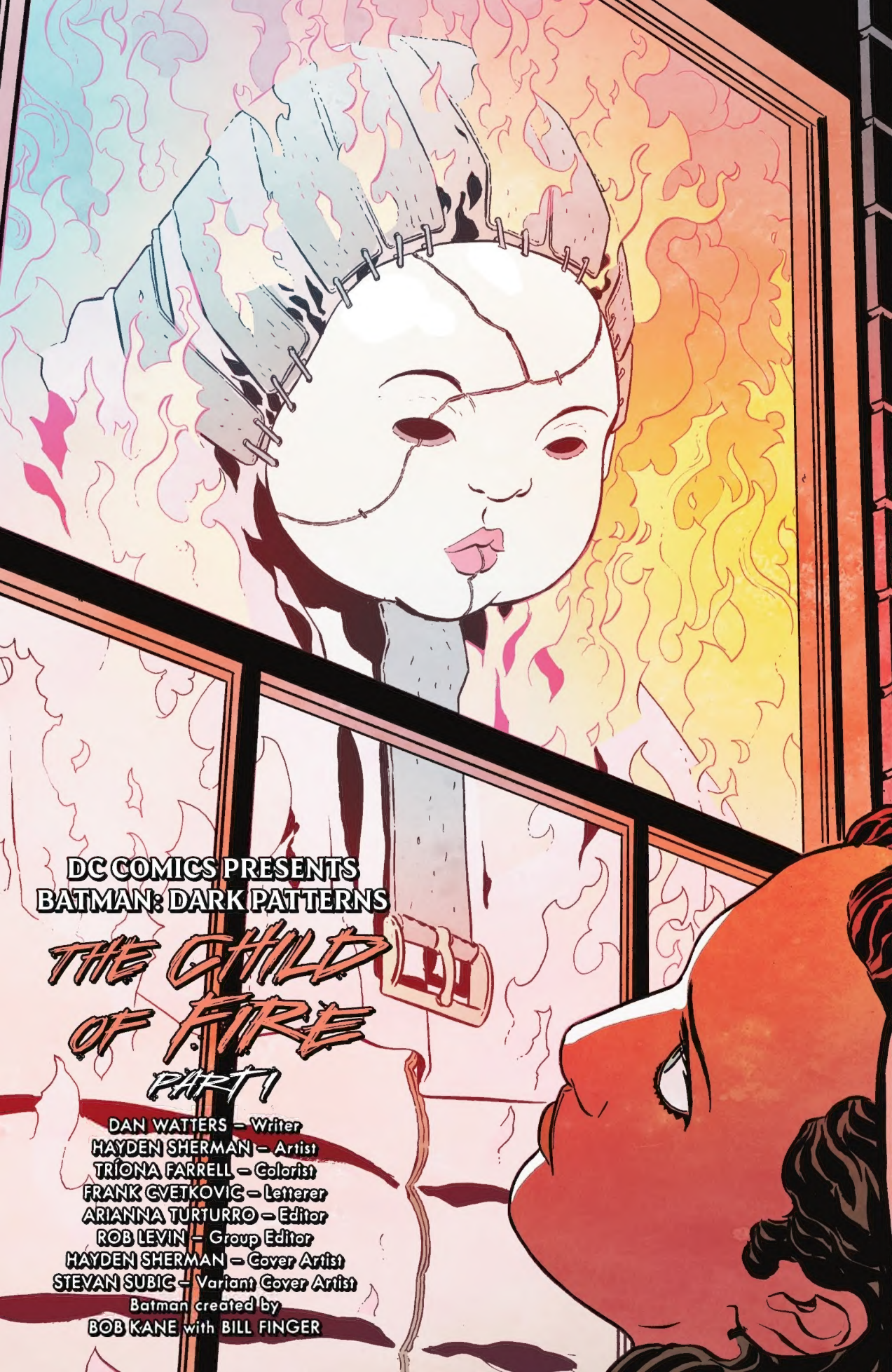
MY GOD! I'M CALLING 9-1-1!

STAY AWAY FROM IT, DARLING.

THERE'S SOMEONE MOVING IN THERE...

...SOMEONE...





**DC COMICS PRESENTS
BATMAN: DARK PATTERNS**

**THE CHILD
OF FIRE
PART 1**

DAN WATTERS – Writer

HAYDEN SHERMAN – Artist

TRÍONA FARRELL – Colorist

FRANK GVIKOVIC – Letterer

ARIANNA TURTURRO – Editor

ROB LEVIN – Group Editor

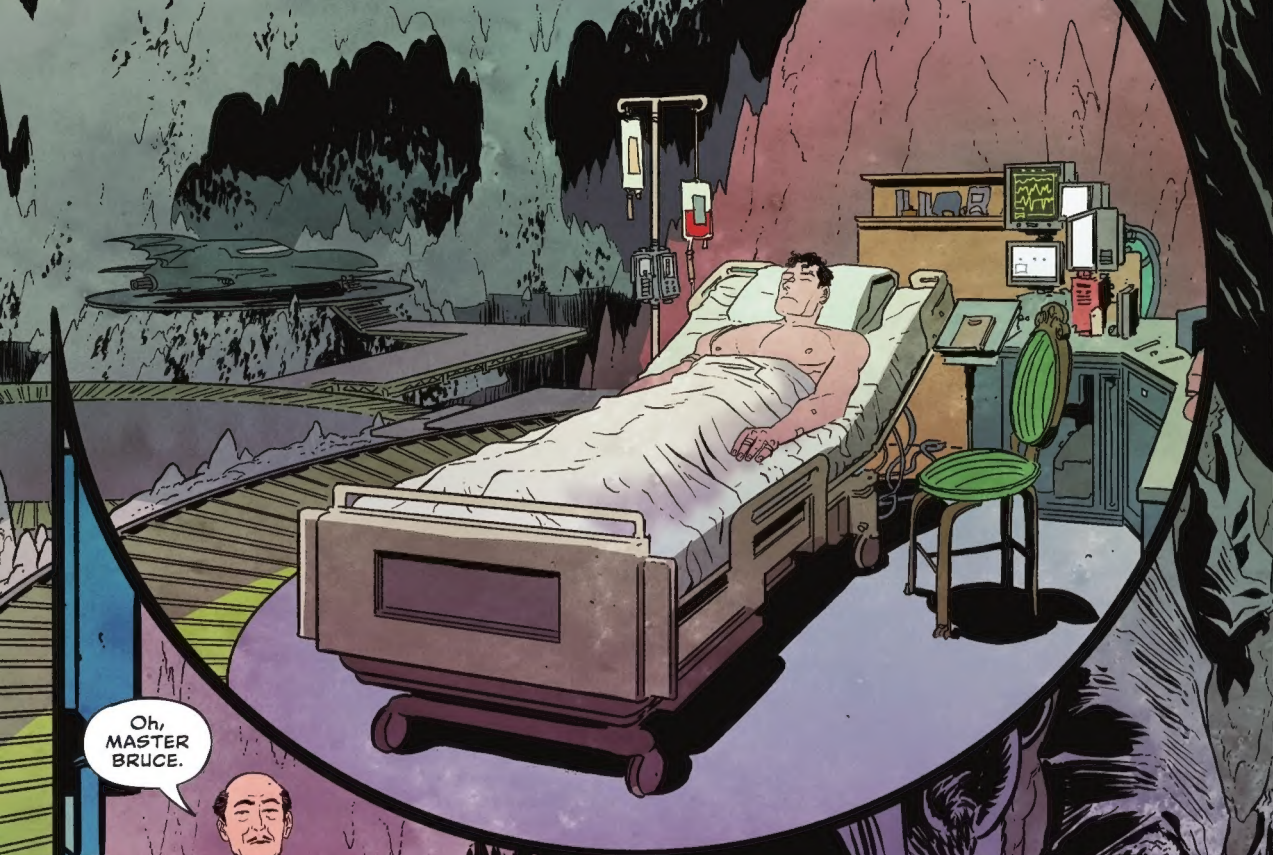
HAYDEN SHERMAN – Cover Artist

STEVEN SUBIC – Variant Cover Artist

Batman created by

BOB KANE with **BILL FINGER**





Oh,
MASTER
BRUCE.



WHAT
HAVE I TOLD
YOU? YOU'VE
BEEN TOSSING
AND TURNING
AGAIN.



YOU'VE
TORN YOUR
STITCHES.
WHY DO I
BOTHER?



JUST
ANOTHER
NIGHT AS THE
BATMAN'S
FAITHFUL
BUTLER.





THIS...*IS*
SLEEP, ISN'T
IT, MASTER
BRUCE?

ONLY, IT'S BEEN
A FEW NIGHTS NOW
SINCE YOU CAME HOME
WITH THAT BULLET IN
YOUR BACK...

AND THIS
FEVER...

YOU
FOOLISH OLD
MAN, PENNYWORTH.
WHY DID YOU LET THE
BOY PUSH HIMSELF
SO HARD?



SOMETIMES
YOU CAN'T SEE
IT FOR THE ASH
IN THE AIR.



TELL
ME, DATON.
HAVE YOU SEEN
THE FIRES UP
CLOSE?

WOULD YOU
DESCRIBE THE
SHAPE AND THE
COLOR OF THE
FLAMES?

OFFICER
DATON WON'T
BE WORKING THIS
BLOCK ANYMORE,
MR. LYNN...



THOUGH HE
MAY BE JOINING YOU
HERE IN BLACKGATE
PENITENTIARY AFTER
HIS TRIAL.

COMMISSIONER
GORDON. WHAT A
PLEASURE.

WE FOUND THE
CORRESPONDENCE
HE WAS SMUGGLING
IN FOR YOU. MAKES
FOR SOME VERY
INTERESTING
READING.

"DEAR
FIREFLY."

A LOAD
OF CRAP IN HERE
ABOUT PROMETHEUS.
ABOUT SOME MADE-
UP HISTORY OF
GOTHAM.

IS THIS
STUFF YOU'VE
BEEN FILLING
SOMEONE'S
HEAD WITH?

MY PEN
PAL'S TAKEN
THE NEXT
STEP.

THESE
ARE HIS FLAMES
WE'RE LOOKING AT,
AREN'T THEY?
HIS SPREE.

JUST
TELL US
WHO IT IS,
LYNNS.

AND WE
CAN TALK ABOUT
NOT EXTENDING
YOUR SENTENCE FOR
CONSPIRACY, NOT TO
MENTION SMUGGLING
OF CONTRABAND.



THERE'S
SOMETHING
WRONG WITH
MY BRAIN.

THEY SAY I
CAN'T PROCESS
LONG-TERM
CONSEQUENCES.
I NEED INSTANT
GRATIFICATION.

AND
THERE'S
ONLY *ONE*
THING I
WANT.



YOU'RE A
PYROMANIAC. NO
ONE'S BRINGING
YOU A NAKED
FLAME.

YOU
WILL.

YOU'RE
DESPERATE
ENOUGH TO
TURN TO ME FOR
HELP NOW THAT
THE BAT-MAN
IS GONE.

NO WONDER,
WHEN WHAT YOU'RE
TRYING TO FIGHT
ISN'T A PERSON,
BUT AN
INEVITABILITY.

THE FIRE IS
HOW THE CITY
GROWS AND
CHANGES.

IT'S ALREADY
BEEN KINDLED.
ALREADY BEGUN
ITS WORK...

...BURNING
OUT THE
IMPURITIES.



"YOUR NEW
PATHOLOGIST FRIEND,
DR. SEREIKA, WORKED
AT A BODY FARM DOWN
IN FLORIDA...

AN OUTDOOR
RESEARCH FACILITY
FOR STUDYING THE
DECOMPOSITION OF
HUMAN CORPSES
UNDER DIFFERENT
CONDITIONS.

DOZENS OF
BODIES DONATED,
STRIPPED OF THEIR
DIGNITY IN THE NAME
OF PROGRESS. IN THE
NAME OF SOLVING
CRIMES.

BODIES
LEFT IN THE TRUNKS
OF CARS. SUBMERGED
IN PONDS. BURIED.
UNBURIED. THEIR DECAY
SCRUTINIZED AND
RECORDED.

HARROWING
WORK, BY ALL
ACCOUNTS.

IT'S HARD TO
BLAME SOMEONE FOR
TURNING TO CERTAIN
SUBSTANCES TO COPE
WITH IT ALL.

THOUGH PERSONALLY
I MIGHT NOT HAVE
CHOSEN ANYTHING WITH
HALLUCINOGENIC
PROPERTIES IN THAT
ENVIRONMENT.

APPARENTLY
YOUR FRIEND
SEREIKA WAS ALONE
IN THE FIELD ONE NIGHT,
UNEARTHING A BODY,
WHEN IT BEGAN TO
SPEAK TO HIM.

IT TOLD
HIM IT COULD
FEEL EVERYTHING
THAT WAS BEING
DONE TO IT.

IT
BEGGED HIM
FOR HELP.

AND
DR. SEREIKA
OBLIGED.



NO THANKS,
LIEUTENANT BULLOCK.
I'M SURE YOU *COULD* MAKE
FIREFLY SEE SPARKS, BUT
LYNNS IS MAKING OUT LIKE
HE KNOWS MORE THAN
HE DOES.

THE LETTERS
WERE ANONYMOUS,
DEAD-DROPPED TO
OFFICER DATON.



I JUST WANTED TO LOOK
HIM IN THE EYE. HELP BUILD
A PROFILE OF THE KIND
OF ANIMAL WHO'D
DO THIS.



STAY BY
MRS. CABRERA'S
HOSPITAL
BED.

SEE IF
SHE COMES
AROUND ENOUGH
TO TALK ABOUT
ANYTHING EXCEPT
THE "CHILD'S
FACE IN THE
FLAMES."

I'M
HEADING
INTO THE
PATHOLOGY
LAB NOW.

HOPING
DR. SEREIKA
MIGHT BE ABLE TO
SHED A LITTLE MORE
LIGHT ON THINGS
FROM STUDYING HER
HUSBAND'S BODY.



Sereika...?













HE WAS IN
THERE! BUT
HE RAN...

WE'LL
GET HIM.

HOW
DID YOU
KNOW?

I
DIDN'T.

I
CAME FOR
SEREIKA.

SEREIKA--
WHERE *IS* THE
DOCTOR?

THE
JOURNALIST
NICKY HARRIS TOLD
ME DR. SEREIKA FLED
THE BODY FARM IN
FLORIDA AFTER HALF
OF IT **BURNED
DOWN** ON HIS
WATCH.

A
STUDENT
DIED IN THE
BLAZE.

THEN HE
CAME HERE.
STARTED
WORKING
WITH US.

YOU WERE
SO GRATEFUL FOR
THE ASSISTANCE, YOU
NEVER QUESTIONED
WHY HE LEFT.

IT WAS
LEFT TO HARRIS
TO UNCOVER
THE STORY.

NEVER
LOOKED TOO
CLOSELY AT HIS
REFERENCES.





THERE WERE TWO GREAT FIRES OF GOTHAM. ONE IN THE 18TH CENTURY, DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

THE SECOND DURING THE 19TH CENTURY. A FIFTH OF THE CITY BURNED TO THE GROUND.

ITS REBUILDING IS WHAT SHAPED THE CITY INTO WHAT IT IS TODAY.



BUT THE **THIRD** GREAT FIRE OF GOTHAM...

...THAT'S JUST BEGINNING.



DR.
SEREIKA. MY
NAME IS **NICKY
HARRIS**. WITH MY
HELP, YOU'LL DRAW
THE BAT TO THE
HEART OF ITS
FLAME.

AND WHEN
HE BURNS, HE'LL
BECOME SO MUCH
MORE THAN FLESH
AND BLOOD.

TO BE CONTINUED....



DETECTIVE COMICS #1101



RED HOOD #1



HARLEY QUINN #54



CATWOMAN #79

THIS SEPTEMBER, FALL INTO NEW STORY

ARCS ACROSS GOTHAM—AND BEYOND!



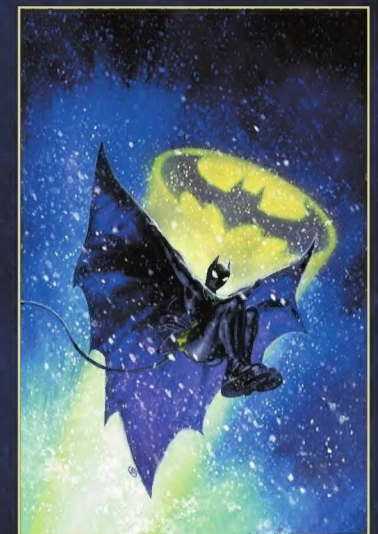
POISON IVY #36



BATMAN AND ROBIN #25



NIGHTWING #130



BATGIRL #12

(On sale in October)





NATION

SPOTLIGHT ON

C.O.R.T. CHILDREN OF THE ROUND TABLE

INTERVIEW WITH TOM TAYLOR

Superstar writer Tom Taylor is beloved by DC fans for his work on *Detective Comics*, *Nightwing*, *DCEased*, and much more—and starting this September, he and artist Daniele Di Nicuolo introduce a new cast of characters outside of the DC Universe in the six-issue all-ages series *C.O.R.T.: Children of the Round Table*. In *C.O.R.T.*, frequent collaborators Taylor and Di Nicuolo put their own contemporary spin on Arthurian lore as ancient weapons meet children of destiny.

Tom, what makes now the right time for this story?

We live in a time when it feels like too many adults in charge aren't working for future generations. For me, this is the perfect time for stories where the next generations step up and take down tyrants to make a better world...with kindness, and powers, and giant swords.



Can you tease the threat the Children of the Round Table face in this story?

There is a tyrant rising, with access to a dark magical power tied to long ago. Our kids have been chosen to be a new force for good. Arthur, Lancelot, and the original Knights of the Round Table are bonded to the weapons they once wielded. And their spirits now speak (and argue) and train this next generation of knights to save the world.



What's the importance for you of telling all-ages stories in the monthly-comics format?

I came to comics as a kid and I want more kids reading comics. I want to create books that comics shops can hand to kids and say, "Here. Have fun. And welcome to the greatest storytelling medium on the planet." I want adults to buy comics for kids and for kids to be excited to read them. I want uncles and aunties and parents and grandparents to share their love of comics.

But I also want to create stories that are truly engaging for everyone, stories that will shock and entertain adults and kids alike.

Similarly, what do you see as the significance of telling this original story at DC?

Creating a new group of heroes, with powers and villains and a vast lore, at one of the greatest publishers to ever do all that, is incredibly exciting. This is the home of the Justice League. This is the home of the Teen Titans. Now DC is the home of the Children of the Round Table.

I hope this series can run a lot longer than its first six issues (which will depend on how many people embrace it, of course) because I'd love to see these young heroes grow in future stories. I'd love for each arc to be another year and for readers to grow up along with our cast.

Have to ask—if you had a talking weapon, what kind of weapon (and personality) would you want?

Look. Swords are just cool. Talking swords are even cooler. That's just basic math.



**DON'T MISS
C.O.R.T.: CHILDREN OF
THE ROUND TABLE #1
ON SALE MONTHLY!**

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

